

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 IO-13 NSCE-00 SAB-02
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 233884 TOSEC 100026

FOR ROBERT PACE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: BILATERAL TALKS DURING UNGA: PARAGUAY - FOREIGN
MINISTER ALBERTO NOGUES

1. ISSUE: PANAMA CANAL TREATY SIGNING.

U.S. OBJECTIVE: CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERN-
MENT FOR THIS TREATY.

PARAGUAY'S OBJECTIVE: MINISTER NOGUES REQUESTED A VERY
BRIEF MEETING WITH YOU, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT
STROESSNER, TO THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT FOR
THE INVITATION TO THE SIGNING CEREMONY, THE MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE HOSPITALITY ACCORDED STROESSNER
WHILE IN WASHINGTON.

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POINTS TO BE MADE:

-- WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE SOLIDARITY OF PARAGUAY IN
JOINING WITH OTHER HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT THE U.S.
INITIATIVE FOR A NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY.

2. ISSUE: PARAGUAY AND THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS

COMMISSION.

U.S. OBJECTIVE: WE NOW HAVE A WRITTEN COMMITMENT THAT THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT WILL PERMIT A VISIT BY THE IAHR "AT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TIME" IF, AS IS ALMOST CERTAIN, THE IAHR IS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE PARAGUAYAN RESPONSE TO A SPECIAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT THE COMMISSION HAS PREPARED. WE WANT THE GOP TO WORK OUT A SPECIFIC DATE FOR THE VISIT WITH THE IAHR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

PARAGUAY'S OBJECTIVE: TO OBTAIN U.S. APPROVAL OF PARAGUAYAN LOAN APPLICATIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS: PRESIDENT STROESSNER AGREED TO A VISIT AFTER THE FEBRUARY 1978 ELECTIONS FOLLOWING STROESSNER'S BILATERAL WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. NONETHELESS, THERE REMAINS A RESIDUE OF DOUBT THAT THE COMMITMENT WILL BE HONORED, BASED ON THE PAST RECORD OF NOT KEEPING A GOP PLEDGE LAST MAY. THUS, THE CHRISTOPHER COMMITTEE AGREED TO SUPPORT ONLY THREE AID LOANS AND THE ONE IDB GRANT FOR POTABLE WATER PRESENTLY BEFORE THE BANK. THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO CONSIDER FUTURE PARAGUAYAN LOAN APPLICATIONS ON THE BASIS OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS AND COOPERATION WITH THE IAHR THEN PREVAILING.

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POINTS TO BE MADE:

-- WE WERE VERY PLEASED THAT PARAGUAY HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE A VISIT BY THE IAHR.

-- THIS ACT OF COOPERATION ENABLED THE U.S. TO SUPPORT CERTAIN NEW AID LOANS AND AN IDB GRANT FOR POTABLE WATER FOR ASUNCION.

-- UNDER PREVAILING U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION, COOPERATION WITH GROUPS LIKE THE IAHR, AS WELL AS IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, ARE ESSENTIAL FOR OUR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE. WE HOPE PARAGUAY CAN QUICKLY ARRANGE WITH THE IAHR A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE, SPECIFIC DATE FOR THE VISIT.

3. ISSUE: FMS CREDITS (IF ASKED)

U.S. OBJECTIVE: THERE IS OBJECTION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT TO SIGNING THE FY 77 FMS CREDIT AGREEMENT (\$500,000) BECAUSE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PARAGUAY, AND BECAUSE IT IS A MARGINAL PROGRAM.

PARAGUAY'S OBJECTIVE: TO RETAIN THIS CREDIT AND CLOSE
WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. MILITARY.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS: THE FY 77 AGREEMENT MUST BE SIGNED
BY SEPTEMBER 30, OR THE FUNDS WILL BE LOST. THE SHORT-
NESS OF YOUR BILATERAL WITH MINISTER NOGUES WILL NOT
ALLOW TIME FOR A SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE.
THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED THAT WE
DO NOT NOW PLAN TO SIGN, AND IT WOULD DETRACT FROM THE
COURTESY ASPECT OF THIS MEETING FOR YOU TO DO SO ON THIS
OCCASION.

POINTS TO BE MADE:
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-- IF ASKED, YOU SHOULD STATE THAT THE PROSPECTS LOOK
DIM FOR AN FMS PROGRAM FOR FY 77, BUT WE ARE HOPEFUL
THAT SOMETHING CAN BE DONE FOR FY 78. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 29-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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